

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

-- ~~Apparatus and methods for improving the speed of computational simulations are disclosed. In one embodiment, a~~ A method of performing a numerical simulation includes programming a programmable device using function blocks adapted to perform a respective part of the numerical simulation. Input data are received, and a first portion of the numerical simulation is performed on a standard computer processor. A data path is provided between the processor and the programmable device. A second portion of the numerical simulation is performed on the programmable device, and data from at least one of the first and second portions are exchanged via the data path. --